

CANCEDDA et al.  
Appl. No. Div of SN 09/831,161  
July 8, 2003

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

8. (new) A method for culturing mesenchymal stem cells, which comprises growing said cells in a serum-free composition comprising FGF-2, LIF, SCF, pantotenate, biotin and selenium.

9. (new) The method according to claim 8, wherein the serum-free composition further comprises EGF, PDGFbb, IGF-1, ascorbic acid, cholesterol, albumin,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, dexamethasone and transferrin.

10. (new) The method according to claim 8, wherein the serum-free composition further comprises a minimum essential medium.

11. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein the serum-free composition further comprises a minimum essential medium.

12. (new) A serum-free culture medium for mesenchymal stem cells comprising FGF-2, LIF, SCF, pantotenate, biotin and selenium.

13. (new) The serum-free culture medium according to claim 12, further comprising EGF, PDGFbb, IGF-1, ascorbic acid, cholesterol, albumin,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, dexamethasone and transferrin.

14. (new) The serum-free culture medium according to claim 12 further comprising a minimum essential medium.

15. (new) The serum-free culture medium according to claim 12 further comprising a minimum essential medium.